

ABSTRACT OF INVENTION

An electronic bill payment network includes a plurality of user network stations associated with different users, a plurality of biller network stations associated with different billers, and a central network station. A first user station operates, in real time, to transmit information relevant to an amount of an available bill and an instruction to pay the available bill. A first biller station operates, in real time, to receive the transmitted information and to compute the amount of the available bill based upon the received information. The central network station operates to receive the computed amount of the available bill and the transmitted pay instruction, and to direct payment of the computed amount of the available bill based upon the transmitted instruction to pay that bill.

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